

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended to include the features of claims 5 and 10, claims 5 and 10 are cancelled and claims 13 and 14 are added.

Claims 1, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yatake, U.S. Patent No. 5,746,818, and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yatake in view of Koitabashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,582,047 (Koitabashi '047). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant maintains the argument that Yatake fails to disclose a pretreatment liquid containing dipropylene glycol monopropyl ether and a cationic substance, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant also asserts that the combination of Yatake and Koitabashi '047 fails to disclose or suggest using the combination of the pretreatment liquid and aqueous pigment ink of claim 1 with cloth. By using a pretreatment liquid and an aqueous pigment ink with cloth, as recited in claim 1, various advantages can be achieved in that no color fading on the cloth occurs when the cloth is laundered and the formed image feels good to the touch (page 5, lines 9-18).

Furthermore, the cationic substance in the pretreatment liquid reacts with the resin microparticles having a negative surface charge. Based on such a reaction, the resin microparticles are easily fixed together with pigments on the surface of the cloth, whereby images obtained utilizing such a reaction becomes excellent with respect to color, clarity and color density.

As admitted on page 3 of the Office Action, Yatake fails to disclose using cloth. Koitabashi '047 fails to disclose the pretreatment liquid and aqueous pigment ink of claim 1. Although Koitabashi '047 mentions using cloth (col. 6, lines 1-15), Koitabashi '047 fails to

disclose or suggest the desire to use a pretreatment liquid and an aqueous pigment ink as recited in claim 1 and Yatake fails to provide any disclosure or suggestion with regard to its invention being applied to cloth.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kubota et al. (Kubota), U.S. Patent No. 6,086,197, in view of Yatake and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kubota in view of Yatake and Koitabashi '047. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kubota fails to overcome the deficiencies of Yatake and Koitabashi '047 in disclosing or suggesting a pretreatment liquid and an aqueous pigment ink in combination with cloth, as recited in claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

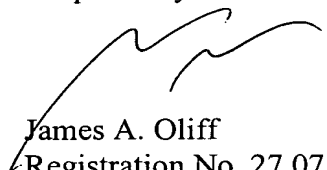
Claims 2, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Koitabashi et al., U.S. Publication 2002/0044185 (Koitabashi '185), in view of Yatake, claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Koitabashi '185 in view of Yatake and Kubota, and claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Koitabashi '185 in view of Yatake and Koitabashi '047. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

For reasons similar to claim 1, none of the applied references disclose or suggest using a pretreatment liquid and an aqueous pigment with cloth as recited in claim 2. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: February 15, 2007

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